

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: ARCHIVAL ACCESS: THE DOLGIKH VISIT

REF: MOSCOW 11382

1. WE AGREE WITH REFTEL'S ASSESSMENT OF THE USEFULNESS OF FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS TO DOLGIKH ON ARCHIVAL ACCESS, AND ARE COOPERATING WITH THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND THE KENNAN INSTITUTE TO SET UP AN APPROPRIATE FORUM. NEITHER OF THESE AGENCIES NEEDED PROMPTING FROM US ON THE QUESTION OF ACCESS, AND BY THE TIME WE CONTACTED THEM THEY BOTH HAD DEVELOPED CONCRETE PLANS OF THEIR OWN TO BEND DOLGIKH'S EAR IN THE APPROPRIATE DIRECTION UPON HIS ARRIVAL.

2. MCREYNOLDS, AN ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, TELLS US THAT DR. RHOADES SUGGESTED LAST WINTER TO DOLGIKH THE IDEA OF A MEETING OF ALL 19 SOVIET ARCHIVISTS WHO WILL ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 1 WITH A GROUP OF AMERICAN SCHOLARS TO DISCUSS

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OUR PROBLEMS WITH ACCESS. MCREYNOLDS SAID THAT DOLGIKH

TURNED THAT PROPOSAL DOWN FLATLY, INSISTING THAT HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE END OF THE CONFERENCE.

3. DOLGIKH HAS SINCE SENT RHOADES A DRAFT AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION, THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF WHICH, AS WE READ IT, IS TO CHANNEL ALL U.S. REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO SOVIET FILES THROUGH THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. MCREYNOLDS TELLS US THAT WHATEVER OTHER MERITS SUCH AN AGREEMENT MIGHT HAVE, IT IS ADMINISTRATIVELY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO TAKE ON SUCH A TASK. WE WILL BE TALKING TO MCREYNOLDS ON HOW WE THINK THE DOLGIKH DRAFT MIGHT BE TURNED INTO SOMETHING USEFUL, AND WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING EMBASSY VIEWS. A COPY OF THE DRAFT IS BEING POUCHED.

4. THE KENNAN INSTITUTE WILL HOST A RECEPTION FOR DOLGIKH SEPTEMBER 30 TO WHICH VARIOUS SCHOLARS AND EXCHANGE ORGANIZATION REPS ARE TO BE INVITED. THE UNSTATED THEME WILL BE ACCESS, AND THE INSTITUTE'S FRED STARR HOPES THAT THE INFORMAL SETTING WILL ALLOW PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

5. STARR AGREED WITH US, HOWEVER, THAT A BIT MORE CONCENTRATED EXPOSURE TO U.S. VIEWS ON THE MATTER MIGHT BE USEFUL, IF DOLGIKH WILL AGREE TO SIT DOWN TO IT. WE ARE THEREFORE ATTEMPTING TO SET UP A MEETING IN WASHINGTON FOR DOLGIKH WITH SEVERAL U.S. SCHOLARS WHO KNOW THE PROBLEM OF ACCESS TO SOVIET ARCHIVES, HAVE HAD PERSONAL EXPOSURE TO THE PROBLEM, BUT WHO ARE ALSO REGARDED BY THE SOVIETS AS RESPONSIBLE AND IMPORTANT SCHOLARS. STARR AGREED TO HOST THE MEETING, WHICH PROBABLY WOULD BE ONLY ONE MORNING OR AFTERNOON SESSION. HE WILL TENDER THE INVITATION TO DOLGIKH. MAIN QUESTION, OF COURSE, IS WHETHER DOLGIKH WILL AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. FYI, AMONG SCHOLARS STARR SUGGESTED ARE WORTMAN OF CHICAGO, EMMONS OF STANFORD, GRIMSTED OF HARVARD, PINTNER OF CORNELL, AND IREX'S MATUSZEWSKI.

6. WE WILL MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING, AND WILL KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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